



## **United States Embassy Belize** *Press Release*

February 11, 2004

### **U.S. MILITARY CONDUCTS MEDICAL EXERCISES**

The United States Southern Command, in conjunction with the Belize Defence Force and the Ministry of Health, will conduct another Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) in Belize, this time in the Belize District.

From February 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, U.S. medical personnel will be visiting at various times Crooked Tree, Maskall, Burrell Boom, and Bermudian Landing to offer free medical services to the residents in these areas. Posters advertising the exact dates and locations are currently being posted in all MEDRETE areas.

This is the first MEDRETE team to visit Belize in 2004. Last year, there were three MEDRETE exercises in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts.

U.S. Ambassador Russell Freeman commented, "I am pleased that MEDRETE continues to visit Belize. Not only does the military team provide quality medical care free of cost to the public in remote areas of the country but also it receives training by working side by side with Belizean military and civilian authorities."

The MEDRETE team will provide basic medical care in the areas of family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, hearing screens for children, plus eye and dental care. Veterinary services will also be provided. Residents in the Belize District are urged to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **NOTICE TO MEDIA**

The members of the media are invited to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of MEDRETE. The Opening Ceremony will be held on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Crooked Tree Government School. The Closing Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Health Center in Bermudian Landing. A member of the MEDRETE team will be on hand to give the press a tour and answer questions. Please contact Denise Nisbet at tel: 227-7161 ext. 370 or e-mail [nisbetdl@state.gov](mailto:nisbetdl@state.gov) for more information.

**P.O. Box 286, Belize City, Belize**  
**Telephone (501) 227-7161, Fax (501) 223-0802**  
**e-mail: [embbelize@state.gov](mailto:embbelize@state.gov)**